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TWO-FOOT SHELF FOR A COUNTRY SCHOOL

A voting contest on the best 25 books for a two-foot shelf for a one-room country school will be held at the A. L. A. Detroit conference in June and at the N. E. A. meeting in Boston in July. Miss Marion Horton, chairman of the School Libraries Section of the A. L. A., is in charge of the contest at Detroit and Dr. Sherman Williams, chairman of the Library Department of the N. E. A., will direct the contest at Boston.

At Detroit ballots will be distributed the first day of the conference. The ballot will consist of a printed list of probably 100 selected titles, making it easy for the voter to check the 25 he prefers. There will also be extra blank spaces in which titles not printed may be added. All books for general and supplementary reading for children in grades 1 to 8 may be voted upon. Encyclopedias and textbooks are excluded from the contest, and it is assumed that every school possesses a Bible, and a dictionary, so that these also will not be eligible for selection.

The winning titles will be announced after the conferences in order that people everywhere may know what books are considered by librarians and teachers as most interesting and useful for children in the elementary grades. If possible a preliminary announcement of the result will be made before the conclusion of the Conference.

The contest is planned as propaganda for school libraries. Its effectiveness depends on its reaching small and remote communities. Librarians can do a great deal for the success of the scheme by giving it as much advance publicity as possible in their own towns. A good way to do this is to get people locally prominent in educational affairs to make their selection of

the 25 most valuable books for a small school library and publish these lists in the newspapers. The results of the voting contests at Detroit and Boston will then be of much greater interest and news value when the community has already been interested and informed on the subject. The contests will thus have served to stimulate popular interest in good books for general reading and encourage the establishment and development of school libraries.

COMMITTEES

Bookbuying Committee

The Bookbuying committee now consists of

M. L. Raney, chairman.

Asa Don Dickinson.

C. Tefft Hewitt.

H. C. Wellman.

Purd B. Wright.

A committee to prepare a county library exhibit for Detroit conference (Joint Committee of A.L.A. and League of Library Commissions) consists of:

Loleta I. Dawson, county librarian, Detroit Public Library, chairman.

Helena S. Le Fevre.

Harriet C. Long.

Corinne Metz.

Clarence W. Perley and Mary E. Baker have been added to Decimal Classification Advisory Committee of which C. W. Andrews is chairman.

W. Dawson Johnston, librarian of the American Library in Paris, Inc., sends a cordial invitation from the trustees to all American librarians visiting Paris to make the library, No. 10 due de L'Élysée, their headquarters while in the city. The resources of the library are at their service. All Americans are urged to use the library which in addition to its book collection, has on file American magazines and newspapers.